

# The Historical Table Rock Timeline

By James F. Barrett

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**Late 1700s:** Many French voyageurs and other white hunter/trappers came and went in what would become Missouri and Arkansas. At this time the region was dominated by the Osage Indians.

**1818-1819:** (Winter) Henry Row Schoolcraft and his companion, Levi Pettibone, explored the Ozarks carefully including the Branson, Forsyth and Springfield area.

**1819:** Joseph L. Philibert and William Gilliss established a trading post on the James River near what is now Nixa, Mo.

**1821:** Missouri becomes the 24<sup>th</sup> state in the new American nation.

**1830:** Joe Philibert marries Peninah Yocum (of the famous Yocum Silver Dollar Family) and they settle at the junction of the James and the White. This was the first recorded marriage in the Mid-Ozarks. Joe and Peninah's direct descendant, Dr. Robert Philibert, and his son and grandson live in Shell Knob. Bob Philibert's wife is a direct descendant of the German Schell family that settled Shell (Schell) Knob.

**1831:** The first steamboat ascended the White to present day Forsyth, opening Ozark trade.

**1837:** Taney County was founded. Taney County originally contained not only that county but most of what is now Stone, Christian and Douglas Counties.

**1851:** Stone County was cut out of Taney County. Joe Philibert, one of the Mid-Ozarks earliest settlers (1819), became the county's first official.

**1861-1865:** The Civil War raged across the nation. Much of it was fought in our Ozarks, with Pea Ridge in Arkansas and Wilson's Creek in Missouri being the two major battles west of the Mississippi.

**1865:** Joseph Philibert and W. W. Kimberling hired returning Civil War veterans to begin building the Wilderness Road of the Ozarks. They connected many old game and Indian trails to form the route from Berryville, Ark., to the north side of Springfield, where the new and long awaited railroad was soon to arrive.

**1866:** The coming of the Wilderness Road and its associated sister roads also caused a number of ferries to be built for hauling the heavy traffic across the White and other rivers. One of the more famous was the Kimberling Ferry, which replaced the old Maybry Ferry, across the White River, just west of the old (and new) Kimberling Bridges.

**1869:** The first recorded exploration of what was to become Marble (eventually Marvel) cave. Henry Blow, a St. Louis lead mining magnet, led an expedition of six seeking lead or other minerals.

**1870 (until about 1922):** The "tie-hacking" business becomes the central money making industry of the Ozarks. Many millions of huge oaks were cut down, hacked into ties and floated down the rivers to the railroads in eastern Arkansas.

**1882:** T.H. Jones and Truman S. Powell make the second exploration of Marble Cave in hope of finding mine worthy lead.

**1884:** T.H. Jones buys the land containing Marble Cave and forms the Marble Cave Mining Company, intending to take marble and/or lead from the cave. No marble or lead is found but they begin "mining" bat guano and selling it at more than \$700 a ton, a fortune in those days.

**1889:** The bat guano is all gone from Marble Cave and the mining company ceases. Truman Powell sold the cave to one of the Lynch brothers for \$1,000. W.H. Lynch and his two daughters bought the cave and a square mile of land for \$10,000.

**1894:** The Lynch family opens Marble Cave for tourist visitor operation. (It was later renamed Marvel Cave.)

**1895:** Levi Morrill established his post office on the first part of the Indian Ridge Road (now Highway 76) and called it Notch.

**1895:** Waldo Powell opens the first tomato cannery in the Mid-Ozarks. It is near the present site of Talking Rocks, formerly known as Fairy Cave.

## Lake Turnover

By James Barrett

*IMAGINE, IF YOU WILL, MORE THAN A TRILLION GALLONS OF WATER in a huge container 200 feet tall and covering thousands of acres. That's enough water to give every man, woman and child on the face of the earth a couple of 55 gallon barrels of water and still have an awful lot left over in our giant container.*

*Now visualize this gigantic mass of water more or less completely rotating top-to-bottom twice a year. In the Ozarks, every large lake and most small lakes "turn over" twice a year. Most of the water at the bottom comes to the top, while most of the water at the top sinks to the bottom. Hundreds of billions of gallons make the massive move in a relatively short time.*

*Anyone who regularly associates closely with a big lake, boating, fishing, diving or just watching it, knows that this happens. Most folks refer to it by telling someone, "The lake turned over last night."*

*Unless the other person is a complete outsider, they generally just nod and go on about their work or their pleasure. It is doubtful if either the speaker or the listener has any idea why and how the lake and its vast quantity of water turn over. They just get up, go out on the deck and see that their lake is sud-*

**1897:** The first valuable, 14 grain, pink, fresh water pearl was found in a mussel shell on the Black River, starting a years-long frenzy of pearl hunting on every river bar on the White River and all its tributaries, including the Black River. Later on, tons of shells were regularly shipped by steamboat to St. Louis and Arkansas to be turned into "pearl" buttons.

**1900s (early on):** Float fishing on the White and James Rivers, long a local pastime, became an important industry in the Mid-Ozarks. The float trip was 137 miles from Galena to Forsyth – or 250 miles from Galena to Cotter in Arkansas.

**1903:** Harold Bell Wright began writing his famous book, *The Shepherd of the Hills*. It was published in 1907 and became an instant international hit.

**1905, June 10:** The first freight train pulls into Branson, coming from the north, and bringing much desired supplies and building materials. The railroad bridge across the White and the Turkey Creek Tunnel are not yet quite done, so the trains from the south are still on hold.

**1907:** Because Harold Bell Wright's book became a world-wide hit and because the fine railroad connected Wright's story-land to the rest of the nation – people began coming from everywhere to see the fabled people and country of *The Shepherd of the Hills* fame. Tourism became a very serious reality for Branson and the Ozarks.

**1923:** The first Kimberling Bridge is completed crossing the White River.

**1926:** The "Y" bridge in Galena was started. It was completed and dedicated in 1927. It was in use there until it was

closed in 1986. It was restored in 1991 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**1929-1930s:** The effects of The Great Depression came to the Ozarks and many businesses closed. However, the reign of tourism was still strong. The only industries that remained operating were one small logging company, the American Cedar Pencil factory, a stove factory, a box factory and two bustling tomato canneries. Tomato canning stayed busy through WWII, due to the military's heavy demands.

**1941:** Branson and its world famous White and James River Float Trips are featured on the cover and in a full story within *Life Magazine*, one of America's most popular publications.

**1949:** The Herschend family signs a 99-year lease with the Lynch sisters, giving them control of Marvel Cave, the Lynch cabins and the 2,000 acres around it. The Herschends move to the Branson area.

**1951:** The first appropriation for Table Rock Dam is approved and the construction access road is built and graveled.

**1954:** Full appropriation for Table Rock Dam is approved. Preparation for the construction of the dam and lake begins.

**1958:** John Q. Hammons acquires many hundreds of acres of land on Table Rock Lake at the north end of the new Kimberling Bridge. John starts building Kimberling City there in December, 1960.

**1959:** Table Rock Dam is completed and "filling" of the lake begins. The concrete part of the dam is 240 feet tall and 1,602 feet long. The rock and fill part of the dam was 4,821 feet long. □

*denly covered with long ribbons of cloudy or strangely-colored water. If they are a fisherperson they'll know that their sport is pretty much shot down for a short time until things level off. However, some persons fish no matter what.*

*A diver knows that the water will not be clear enough for excellent diving for quite a little while. The casual observer wonders what happened to the crystal blue that usually characterizes their favorite body of water. The lake has turned over and we humans just have to wait for nature to adjust to the new season.*

*Table Rock Lake has 857 miles of shoreline, covers 52,300 acres and contains 3,420,000 acre/feet of water which, at 7.481 gallons per cubic foot, translates into more than 1.1 trillion gallons. That's a lot of water to turn over, but seasonal temperature changes of the surface area get the job one twice a year in the spring and in the fall.*

*Water circulates and/or stratifies throughout the year in most lakes. Much like soda pop and its carbon dioxide bubbles, the amount of oxygen that lake water holds in solution is directly affected by this circulation and by the temperature of the water. Oxygen-rich cool water is where the game fish prefer to live. Warmer water is important for the water sport enthusiasts. Now we begin to see some of the values for all this discussion of the lakes turning over.*

*Water is a most peculiar material. The colder it is the more compact and the heavier it becomes, just like all other materials. At 39 degrees Fahrenheit, water ceases to condense and to become heavier. Below 39 degrees, water begins to expand again and to become lighter.*

*When surface water reaches 39 degrees in the spring it becomes heavier than the water immediately below it and it begins to sink. The mass of sinking water forces water in the deeper parts of the lake upward. The resulting massive circulation of water is called the spring turnover.*

*This spring turnover may last several weeks if the weather is cool and windy. It can happen in a few days and be more dramatic and noticeable if the weather suddenly turns hot and calm. At this time, oxygen is being rapidly absorbed by the circulating cool water at the lake's surface.*

*In the fall the surface water reaches a temperature of 50 degrees. At this point the surface is heavier than the much warmer water directly below and it begins to sink. Just as in the spring, this heavier water begins to displace the lower water and starts the fall turnover. Circulation is also increased by the fall winds that signal the oncoming winter.*

*We see the fall turnover in the form of long streamers of varying colored and cloudy waters. The fall movements sometimes produce a sulfurous, rotten-egg smell. This is sulfur dioxide gas generated by decomposing vegetation and other matter that was contained in the water's depths through the spring and summer months.*

*Most Ozarks lakes will have turnover and stratification patterns from year to year when weather conditions are near normal.*

*For the sports fisherperson, the location of oxygen-rich water and the temperature of the various parts are most significant. Electronic temperature and oxygen meters are becoming increasingly popular and their cost is slowly falling, making them a serious fishing aid. □*